

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06241 151240Z

71

ACTION CU-04

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R 151215Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5867

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 6241

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, TC, TU, EG, SA, KU, IR

SUBJECT: VISIT MEMBERS U.S. ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERNAT'L
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

REF: STATE 226584

1. WHEN INFORMED OF NEW SUGGESTED SCHEDULE FOR SAUDI ARABIA,
PROTOCOL OFFICE OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISED IT
WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT COMMISSION TEAM COULD MEET
WITH ANY MINISTERS OR HIGH-RANKING PERSONNEL SINCE ALL OF THEM
HEAVILY INVOLVED IN MEETING ISLAMIC DELEGATIONS ARRIVING IN
KINGDOM THAT WEEK FOR BEGINNING OF HADJ (PILGRIMAGE) MONTH.

2. WE REGRETLY MUST SUGGEST THAT COMMISSION MEMBERS SERIOUSLY
CONSIDER CANCELLING SAUDI ARABIAN PORTION OF SCHEDULE AS
APPEARS IMPOSSIBLE TO DEVELOP A MEANINGFUL PROGRAM FOR THEM
DURING THIS PERIOD. IN ADDITION LACK OF APPROPRIATE
APPOINTMENTS, HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS NOT AVAILABLE AND INTERNAL
TRANSPORTATION EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AS OVER ONE MILLION
MUSLIMS ENTER THE COUNTRY FOR THE HADJ.
HORAN

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